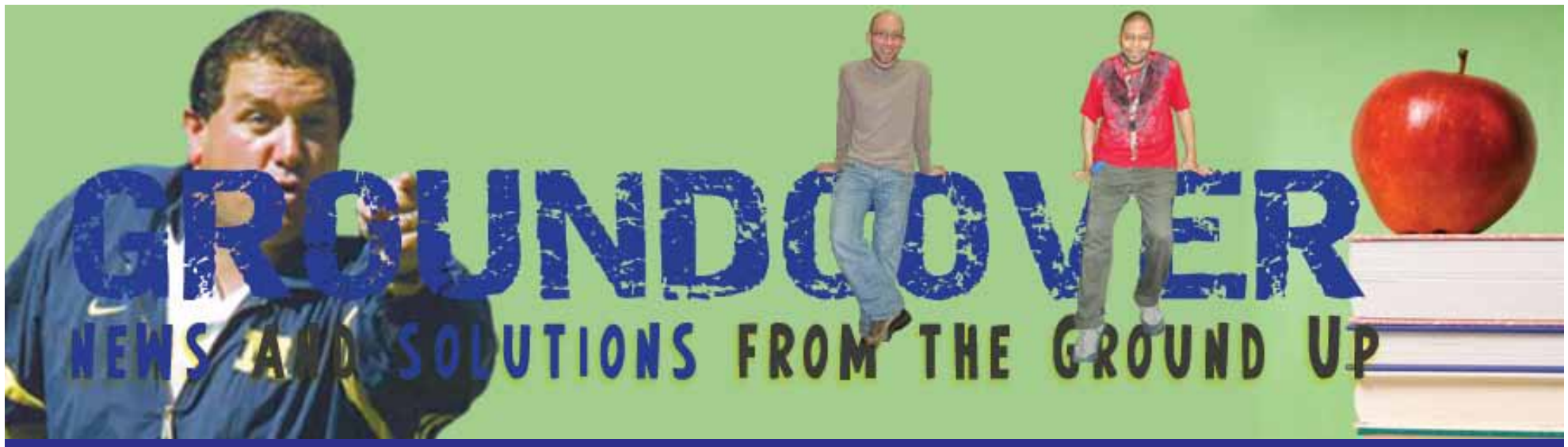


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Operating from fear instead of joining the transformation



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

When confronted with an uncomfortable situation, one reacts guided by instinct or chooses instead to insert some emotional distance and offer a calculated response.

Operating from fear often manifests the feared conditions. This holds true in political relations as well as interpersonal ones.

I recently attended a series of lectures on Iran at the Chautauqua Institution, a religious and cultural community in western New York. After listening to speakers ranging from educators and authors to former ambassadors and religious scholars, it seems to me that the U.S. played a big hand in creating that particular "axis of evil."

Iran, the heart of the former Persian Empire, has long been a world and regional power. Its leaders historically ruled conquered countries with a gentle touch, were respectful of all the Abrahamic religions leading up to Islam, and allowed return to ancestral lands by those exiled from their homes by the Babylonians. Post World War II, modern Iran was on course to a tolerant, European style democracy.

Fear of its growing influence guided our foreign policy from the early 1950's, when the CIA orchestrated the coup that deposed the first democratically elected government in Iran and installed the Shah, through the present, when we still do not enjoy diplomatic relations. When Iraq invaded Iran, we backed Iraq even though they were the aggressor and unleashed chemical weapons against the Iranians. When the United Nations imposed sanctions back in the 1980s because we feared Iran was developing nuclear weapons, our ambassadors and nuclear negotiators were not allowed to speak with anyone from the Iranian government. Despite Iran's cooperation with the U.N. inspectors, we continued imposing sanctions.

Now, I realize Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is a despot who oppresses his people and suppresses democracy. He is not a nice guy and he talks a particularly vile brand of smack, but when you look at the international actions of the Iranian government, there is severe dissonance. Iran has not invaded another country in over 200 years, not even participating in the regional attacks on Israel.

The refusal to release the hikers who strayed into Iranian territory, the refusal to allow weapons inspectors into Iran, the refusal to negotiate with the United States could all be seen as evidence of their intention toward conflict. However, given the history, they could also be seen as a demand for respect and a declaration that, "They are mad as hell and aren't going to take it anymore."

We can continue trying to isolate and intimidate Iran, policies that have led us to this juncture where Iran concludes that they are suffering sanctions anyway so they might as well develop nuclear technology, or we can acknowledge the mistakes of the past and try to atone for them. Our fears of a dominant Iran have pushed them to develop weapons that could turn those fears into a reality.

Despite all that has happened, many of the Iranian people still have warm feelings toward American people.

Perhaps if we reflect on Iran's long history of fostering intellectual, cultural and religious advancement and interact with them from that basis, we can play a part in the transformation of Iran into a beacon of tolerance and stability in the Mideast.

GROUNDCOVERNEWS

MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Letters to the Editor

Helping customers, helping homeless and improving business – a win-win.

Editor,
I walked out of the People's Food Coop on a recent Saturday morning and there was Rissa, a vendor for Groundcover News, with a five-megawatt smile holding the August edition. I gladly bought a copy of the paper I had heard so much about and not yet read.

I was so enamored of it that I started to think of how I could do more than purchase one copy to support their efforts. Then it came to me – my customers need to see this paper! So, with publisher Susan Beckett and vendor Rissa Haynes' help, I purchased 75 copies and mailed one out to all of my customers.

I operate my own handy person business and my customers are used to me sending them things, including my own "newspaper" every once in a while, so this was nothing new. What was news to me was discovering that some of my customers already had a relationship with the people involved in Groundcover because they did things like prepare meals for temporarily homeless people!

So, to you business people out there: Sending out a copy of Groundcover News to your customers, or having copies on your counter for customers to read or take, helps support the homeless, makes you a part of the solution, and enhances your customers' appreciation of you and your business. Win, win, win!

Michael Elizabeth Jackson
Home Mender
homemender@comcast.net

The debt ceiling bill –a GOP trojan horse

Dear Editor,
Ever since the Reagan era, Republican orthodoxy has blamed any and all of our nation's financial problems on any and all government programs which aid the middle-class or poor. Recently the GOP has used their House majority to blockade (usual routine) the debt ceiling increase. Whatever the proposed debt decrease panel decides to cut next year, the underlying confidence needed to run our national economy smoothly has already been greatly damaged.

Coming so soon after the recent banking debacle, this job-killing blow to the American economy seems terribly contrived to benefit only a highly-placed few. America must reclaim its traditional march toward greater human equality!

Paul Lambert
Ann Arbor

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The power of saying, "I did it myself"



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell Pastor, Bethlehem United Church of Christ

When my children were young in the 1980's, video cameras occupied one of the edges of technology. I never had one, but lots of people around me did.

Once, when my daughters were staying with their aunt and uncle for a few days, much of one day's activity was recorded and later turned into a video piece called "A Day in the Life of Amanda and Molly."

We nearly wore that video out as we played it over and over. They loved watching this recording of themselves. On that particular day in their young lives, Amanda successfully buttoned her jacket for the first time. The camera was on, and she looked up, grinned, and exclaimed, "I did it! I did it all by myself!"

I thought of that moment in Amanda's early life when I was listening recently to a middle-aged friend reflect on her upcoming six weeks of radiation. She had already been through surgery and chemo. Her recovery from those phases of treatment had been strong and active.

As she regained her health then, she was able to resume regular routines of biking and rowing. Just a couple of days before the beginning of radiation, she talked about how much she liked being able to get on her bike and in her boat again by herself. She knew she was facing another time of adjustment through radiation when she would be relying heavily on the holding and care of others. She wasn't looking forward to it. She, like Amanda, relished being able to say, "I did it! I did it all by myself!"

Opportunities at *Groundcover* abound for people to say, "I did it! I did it all by myself!" Vendors immerse themselves in the possibilities of micro-economics that make new financial stability, improved living situations, and educational programs possible. They can proudly proclaim, "I did it! I did it all by myself!"

The voices of a variety of *Groundcover* writers are being heard in a chorus of "I wrote it! I wrote it all by myself!" Any of us who fear being overwhelmed by the immensity of housing and employment issues in Washtenaw County can say together about being part of the mission of *Groundcover,* "We did it! We are doing it all by ourselves!"

Without question, it is true that we are perpetually in the care of one another. Our capacities to work together through and beyond tired boundaries, to share strengths, and to bear one another across chasms of vulnerability are essential. But all of that must be balanced with ways by which each of us can say with confidence and clarity, "I did it. I did it all by myself!"

As *Groundcover* flourishes and takes root more deeply throughout the county, we can listen for the sounds of "I did it! I did it all by myself!" on the lips of more and more partners in the paper's development.

Celebrate with me those sounds wherever and whenever you hear them. It is very good for each of us to be able to say, "I did it! I did it all by myself!"

Keeping our hearts open changes our perspective



by Andrew Nixon Groundcover Contributor

I awoke this morning to the sound of a sneeze.

Sneezes, actually. If I had to put a number on it, I'd guess about 243 of them... A painting contractor evidently had a job on my apartment property, and was in the midst of a sneezing attack that surely must qualify for some kind of record. Naturally, he was standing right outside my bedroom window.

As I eased my way into my morning routine of Bach and breakfast, I found myself feeling quite irritated by this sonic intrusion into my peaceful bubble of privacy. I thought to myself, Who IS this guy? Who does he think he is that he can feel entitled to just stand there and SNEEZE incessantly outside MY window? Maybe he shouldn't be inhaling all those paint fumes. Maybe I should go out there and offer him a Claritin. This last thought, mind you, had nothing to do with compassion.

And then, around sneeze number 217, an interesting thing happened. No, the man did not stop sneezing – recall that he had at least twenty-six more to go. What happened was a sudden shift within my own psyche: one moment, I was telling myself that I had just about had it with Sir Sneezealot, and the next moment, I was feeling genuinely sorry for the poor fellow. All my irritation dissolved in that instant. In short, I cheerfully resumed my morning routine, the ambient acoustics blending seamlessly with the Bach – and the only thing that had changed was my perspective.

I trust you have had a similar experience – if you're like me, this kind of thing happens daily. You encounter something in your sphere of experience that, for one reason or another, you don't like – the driver who cut you off on the morning commute, the stranger with the funny hairdo on the elevator, your own insistence on needing to win an argument – and you proceed to do everything within your power to deny or complain about it. Ironically, our reactions often create more suffering than the things we are reacting negatively to. In such moments, often the relevant question is not, Who or what can I blame or criticize for this unpleasantness I feel? or How can I make it go away? Instead, we can simply ask ourselves, Does my response to this situation serve me?

Whenever we operate unconsciously from habit or shrink back from reality in repulsion or fear, it means our hearts are not fully open. It is easy to see why we so often behave this way. Life is painful, precisely because it is beautiful; and the more we care, the more it can hurt. We all have been wounded by life in various ways and to varying degrees. When we hurt, our instinct is to protect ourselves from further pain. To do this, we shut part of ourselves down – we close our hearts to a shade or a species of experience – so that more pain doesn't get in. We shut down to protect ourselves, but in so doing we also shut out much that nourishes our being.

Of course, we cannot remain indiscriminately open to everything, always; sometimes life asks us to put our foot down, draw the line, say no, express our disapproval, even fight back. However, if we keep our defenses up habitually, chances are good that we will wake up one day late in life and realize to our horror how much more richly we could have truly lived. We may then reflect sadly on the countless moments of beauty unappreciated, the unlikely friendships overlooked, the spontaneous acts of generosity passed over, the opportunities to expand our views denied, the chances to express ourselves suppressed. We will seal ourselves off from the vast possibilities of experience; in short, we will stop growing.

Fortunately, it is never too late to rediscover open engagement with a forgotten aspect of life. For to discover something is really to discover, or

see SHUTTING, page 9

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(between William and Packard)
www.bethlehem-ucc.org (734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover Office

Sundays:
8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship
10:00 am ~ Church School

Upcoming Events:
September 23 ~ Parking Lot Pretzel Sale (noon to 4 pm)
Parking for each home football game
(All proceeds to help our your activities)
October 2 ~ 37th Annual CROP Walk
(Begins and ends at Bethlehem Church)

an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

The power of Power, Inc. as a faith-based nonprofit

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

"Power started out of a passion to live what we believe: as a people of faith, we believe we have a responsibility to help those who need it," says executive director Denese Brown. "We walk the talk and take it outside the walls of the church."

Power Inc., a faith-based nonprofit, serves the wide-ranging needs of low-income people, deeds considered mission work by its staff. It started with providing counseling services, but the staff found that clients' progress was hampered by the pressure to meet their immediate housing and food needs and Department of Social Services requirements. So they started offering a range of services that included their own safety net.

The primary concerns of Power, Inc. are to help people better manage their money, treat their children better and maintain their utility services. They have found that once people's emergencies are handled, they can stabilize their living situations and become "interdependent." (They balk at the assertion that some people are independent, as we all rely on help and services from the important people and institutions in our lives.)

Treating people with care and respecting their rights to self-determination, while helping them meet their basic needs, is how Power sees itself as distinct from the government agencies chartered with assisting the poor. Although they are a faith community, they are inclusive of all and do not tell people how to live their lives. They see themselves as a support team.

"What do people experience when they experience Power?" is the question frequently posed to the full-time staff of eight along with interns and part-time employees. It is important to them, as an organization, that the experience be one of unconditional support, like that of a family. They take care to treat each other that way, too, creating a respectful, warm, flexible, nurturing work environment that fosters the extension of those attributes to client interactions.

Kamilah Carter manages the financial services component of Power. Most



rewarding for her is seeing people able to manage their own finances; families setting and reaching goals and overcoming obstacles, and ultimately investing in their futures. Financial literacy programs are offered free, thanks to community and banker volunteers who help with the classes and workshops. The classes focus on how to make choices and forming good habits, budgeting, setting up a bank account and learning about insurance. Individuals can also get one-on-one sessions where they review and clean up their credit reports and examine their budgets.

Power also has the most extensive asset building options in Washtenaw County. Even though it takes considerable staff time to manage, Power administers Individual Development Accounts (IDA's) for qualifying clients. These are matched savings accounts dedicated to a specific acquisition – home ownership, higher education, or a small business. "To break the cycle of poverty, people have to learn how to secure some assets, assets like higher education or vocational training, valuable skills, housing, transportation, or a micro-enterprise," Carter asserts.

One such client was a young widow whose husband died of cancer, leaving her with seven children. She was working part-time while studying for her nursing license and came to Power for a housing education program that was part of the Washtenaw Housing Education Program. She qualified for an IDA and managed to save $1,000 over the ensuing three years. With the $3000 match and her Section 8 housing status, she had enough to make the down payment and take out a Rural Development Loan to buy a house in Pittsfield Township.

Another young lady was renting a home from a family member and the house went into foreclosure. She tried to purchase it but since she was working in a temporary job, her credit score was not great. The bank that held the mortgage was a community partner of Power and worked with the agency to





Kamilah Carter (left), financial manager, and Denese Brown, Executive Director of Power, Inc.

tailor a loan for her. The loan payments were less than her rent had been. The temp job ended before she closed on the house, but Power and the bank helped with her job search and she was re-employed before the closing.

Another core component of Power is the child abuse and neglect prevention Family Advocacy Program. A staff member goes to each participating family's home for at least three hours each week to model effective parenting techniques. The state contracted Power to assist 49 families in this way this year, but with two months before the end of the contract, Power already had 55 families on their caseload.

The Parent Education Program relies on evidence-based parent nurturing. The whole family comes to the classes, where the main goal is to improve parent-child bonding and break the cycle of abuse and neglect. Instruction is provided on parent nurturing, eating together, playing together, and shopping together appropriately. Special parenting classes are offered for people with language barriers and those re-entering mainstream society. Power receives a small amount of funding for these programs from the state's Children's Trust Fund – that box we check at the bottom of our state income tax return.

Therapeutic counseling is another of Power's offerings. Christian, faith-based perspectives are offered to people affected by the challenges of daily living, such as relationships, abuse, and self-image. They also just received licensing that will allow them to offer substance abuse prevention programs. A life skills program for teens and Power Up, and a job preparation program for those referred by Michigan Rehabilitation Services Counselors, round out the Power offerings.



Want to be a published writer? Become a staff reporter for Groundcover News or send in an interesting piece you develop on your own to: submissions@groundcovernews.com



A few places and ways to volunteer

by William Lopez
Groundcover Contrubutor

Years ago, I relocated from Houston, Texas after working in a homeless shelter there for some time. The work was testing and tough, sometimes draining, and often exhausting. But it was always fulfilling. Then I moved to Ann Arbor to take a job with the University of Michigan. With the job came responsibilities and long workdays. Soon after, I added another member to my family, and what little free time I had left seemed to disappear. With all the changes, I found it nearly impossible to work with the homeless anymore.

I imagine this scenario is not rare; that many of us have had jobs in social service and then made a change, have had children, have had an increase in weekly hours, and have, for whatever reason, lost contact with the type of work we found so fulfilling. However, Ann Arbor is rich with opportunities to volunteer, especially with the homeless. Below I list a few well-known social service organizations, and invite you to check out their websites and contact them to investigate volunteer opportunities. Remember, volunteering doesn't have to be a lifelong commitment. Some places allow for a weekend visit once a month, and, speaking from experience, some even welcome little kids.

Groundcover News: Groundcover News creates an economic opportunity for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty. After purchasing a newspaper for 25 cents, vendors then sell the paper for $1, keeping the profit. There are many ways you can work with Groundcover, from ad selling to proofreading, and even training vendors to help with distribution. If you wish to get involved, send an email to contact@groundcovernews.com and ask when the next volunteer meeting will take place. Their website can be found at www.groundcovernews.com

Avalon Housing: Avalon Housing is dedicated to developing and managing permanent supportive housing for those with extremely low income in Washtenaw County. Avalon Housing has no shortage of unique volunteer opportunities, from baking to collecting petitions to gardening. I participated in "Edible Avalon" myself, sorting seeds for the community garden program. I took my two-year-old daughter with me, so I know this can be a family-friendly option. Look them up at www.avalonhousing.org or give them a call at (734) 663-5858.

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County: This organization seeks to end homelessness one person at a time. Volunteers at the Delonis Center (the central facility of the Shelter Association that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and provides medical care, case management, counseling, and other necessary services) are involved in every aspect of service delivery and there are shifts that fit around every schedule. Contact the Association at shelterassociation@ewashtenaw.org for more information. I would also invite you to check out their website at www.annarborshelter.org. The website addresses a number of "myths" about homelessness (did you know that the fastest growing population of homeless individuals are women and children?), and also has Annual Reports under the "Publication" tab if you are interested in knowing how their money is spent.

I hope you can spend some time looking around these websites. Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community, and, no matter your circumstances, if you look hard enough you can always find somewhere that would be happy to have your help!

Muslim Social Services joins Back Door Food Pantry to fight hunger

by Elizabeth Lindsey
Groundcover Contributor

Muslim Social Services (MSS) is a newly formed non-profit organization in Ann Arbor. Following the example of Prophet Muhammed, who did not discriminate between Muslims and non-Muslims in his generosity, MSS is dedicated to providing assistance to anyone in need with dignity and respect. The organization was formed by a small group of area Muslims who became aware that many Muslim families and individuals were experiencing financial hardship and were turning to existing social service agencies here in town. MSS is dedicated to shouldering some of the responsibility for helping anyone in need by: (A) providing assistance with accessing existing services, (B) creating programs to fill service gaps as we are able, and (C) mobilizing the Muslim Community to volunteer in as many ways as possible to help reduce the burden of rapidly increasing needs.

One of our first concerns was regarding hunger relief; MSS wanted to establish a food pantry that complied with Muslim dietary guidelines (no pork or pork by-products, and no alcohol). In August of 2010, we were invited to join the Back Door Food Pantry (BDFP), which at that time was a collaborative effort of St. Clare's Episcopal Church and the Temple Beth Emeth Congregation of Ann Arbor. We were excited to discover that this very well organized pantry was already meeting these requirements. Joining these efforts seemed to be a perfect fit with our mission, and we enthusiastically accepted the invitation.

During this first year, we have contributed modest monetary donations and volunteer assistance. With the establishment of an office located at 3090 Platt Road, we look forward to increasing our support of the BDFP by establishing a permanent drop-off point for non-perishable food and personal care items, as well as to continue recruiting volunteers from the Muslim Community.

In my role of coordinator, I have received nothing but positive feedback from our few volunteers who have worked with BDFP. It is always a positive experience to know that you are helping to make a difference in someone's life. Additionally, it is a wonderful opportunity to look beyond any personal philosophical differences that exist to the reality that we are all God's creation, that hunger is a human condition, and one that does not discriminate.

Street newspaper annual conference

Street newspapers across the nation are making plans to gather in Nashville in mid-October to share and innovate strategies to promote economic independence for the housing insecure.

Creating better and more widely sold street newspapers will be a major topic.

We are blessed with a large number of active volunteers and vendors who contribute to Groundcover in many ways.

Many would like to attend the conference. The fee for the conference and three nights housing is $275, which is prohibitive for many of our folks, especially as they will also miss at least two days of work while they are gone.

You can help our staff and vendors attend this important event by making a contribution to Groundcover News and designating for our NASNA Conference scholarship fund.

Key vendors, volunteers now able to attend conference — thank you!

In response to the story we ran last month about vendors and volunteers wishing to attend the upcoming annual National American Street Newspaper Association convention, we received generous donations from the following individuals:

Zsusza Blom
Neil Mueller
Craig Vanvoorhies

Cycling in Ann Arbor takes on a variety of recreational and economic tasks

By Rissa Haynes
Groundcover Vendor





The Many Faces of Ann Arbor Biking:

Ann Arbor is completely an interesting town of intelligence and full of people with character and unique stories. The Ann Arbor biking community is no exception. As mentioned in the June issue of Groundcover on biking, Ann Arbor residents have many reasons for biking – very good reasons. Among them were health, economics, environment friendliness and just plain old fun. Also great accommodations for bikers have made Ann Arbor a favorite place for the biking community. A variety of fascinating stories and services are also pedaling around town. Here are only a few...





Clockwise, from top left: Green delivery service bike; the biker-triker; a biker-camper; a bicycle built for two. (Photos by Rissa Haynes)

Ann Arbor's Green Delivery Service. By bike, this business specializes in delivering up to 70 pounds throughout the Ann Arbor area (downtown and a radius now within the city limits of Ann Arbor, but the possibilities are endless). They use one human that is "fueled by vitamins and water!" and a bike appropriately geared for carrying various loads to and from the downtown area. Their services include courier and package deliveries between businesses as well as groceries and other household items from local merchants to Ann Arbor residents. More details about Arbor Cycle can be found at www.arborcycle.com or info@arborcycle.com.

Arborcycle is not the first courier service by bike. In 1967, before Internet technology, Mr. Gregory Fox used a folding bike to pedal across Michigan delivering telegraphs. Mr. Gregory Fox has joined PALM (Pedal Across Lower Michigan), an organization which plans six-day bike hikes across Michigan for both families and seasoned riders every year for the past 30 years. Get information about the tours at palmbiketour@yahoo.com or call (734) 669-0172.

Then, there's this, shown on the front page: The Tree Town Pedicab Company, Ann Arbor's own bicycle taxi service! They can carry even me and 3 other people!

Biking involves proper gear. These are as fascinating as the services in the area. One biker sports a rear view mirror attached to his helmet at eye level, giving him greater visuals of traffic behind him. Steve and Heather make sure that they are seen by the traffic by wearing stylish reflective biking gear. Their original purpose for biking was just a healthy hobby. Biking now is their healthy habit.

Finally, the biker that motivates me to make biking a part of my health habit is the "biker triker:" This biker says balance is still required. The 3-wheeler does facilitate having a "trunk" attached, while the bicycle requires great balance to carry a trunk-load of gear.

Indeed, Ann Arbor's biking community is complete with many fascinating and interesting bikers. It's no wonder the city is considered one of the nation's most bike-friendly communities.

1 Matters.org



Israeli-Palestinian "Parent Circle" brings hope and understanding to divided people

by Ron Gregg
Groundcover Contributor



The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice sponsored a group of 13 people, including myself, who traveled to Israel and Palestine to try to understand why they have not been able to reach a peaceful solution to their 44-year-old conflict. We found walls of fear, anger and hatred built by both Israelis and Palestinians that separate one from another.



Top: Rami and Aziz, talking to Palestinians and Israelis who have lost loved ones through the ongoing conflict. Above: The Western Wall.

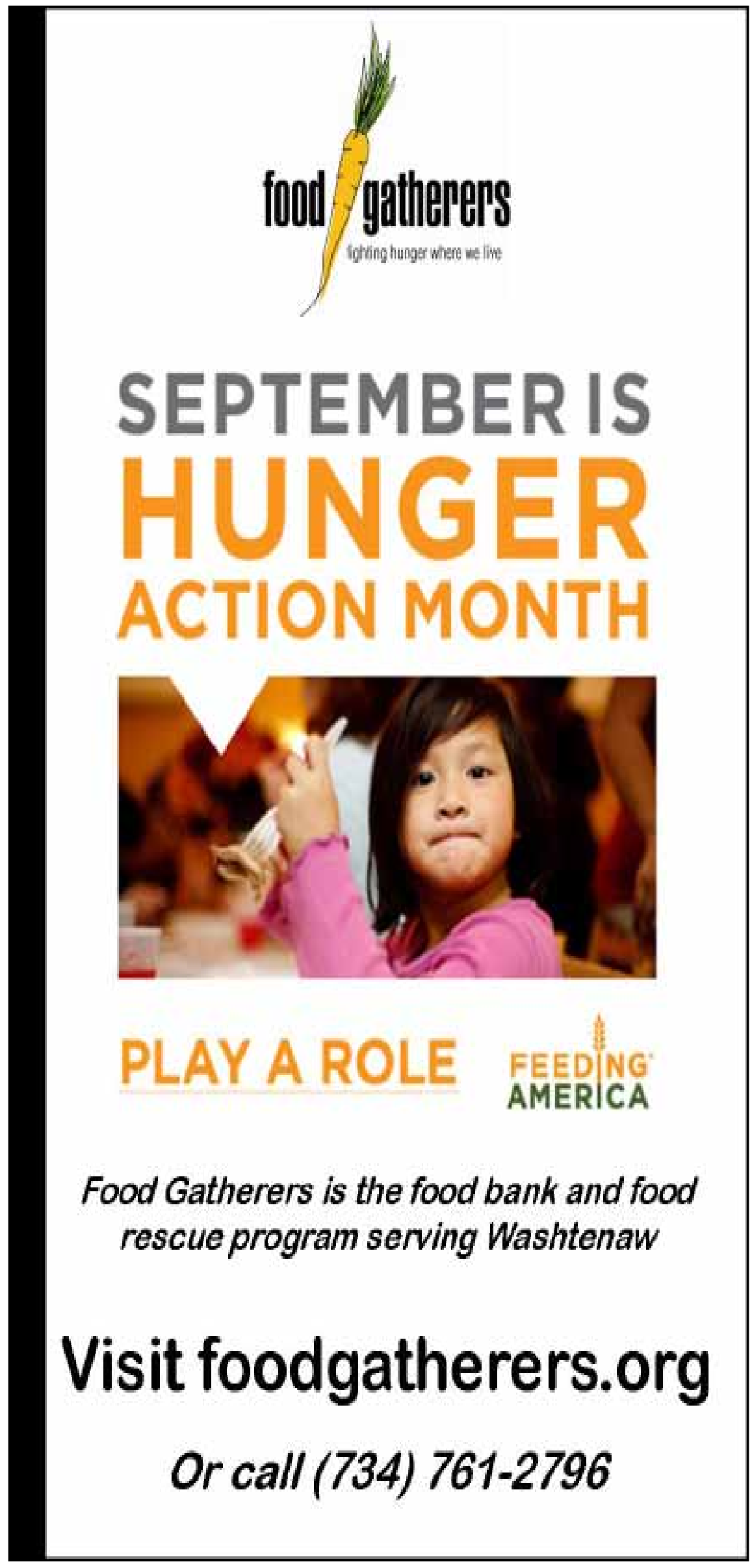
When you consider their history, the walls are understandable, and most people in similar circumstances would have built them also. The Israeli wall is built in response to wars by Arabs intending to destroy the nation, to suicide bombers and missiles fired into its land, to the refusal by some Arabs to recognize Israel as the Jewish homeland, and to continuing incitement speech by young Arabs. The Palestinian wall is built in response to an occupation which brings continuing humiliation, restrictions of movement, long imprisonments without formal charges, the taking of lands and demolishing of homes by Israel, and widespread discrimination by government and individuals within Israel against Arab-Israeli citizens.

While these walls are generally strong and high, we saw that chinks and spaces are being created in the walls, and bridges are being built over them, by individuals and groups that have been able to transform the natural human response of vengeance and indifference into compassion and action towards developing human relationships.

We sat in a little cafe area in a unique Israeli/Palestinian community and listened while Rami and Aziz told their stories. Rami had served as a tank commander in the Israeli military. His 14-year-old daughter was killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber in Israel. He told us about the pain and hatred that he felt toward the Palestinians, but how he came to the realization that gaining revenge would still not bring his daughter back.

He joined a group called the Parent Circle, which is part of the Bereaved Family Forum that includes both Palestinians and Israelis who have lost loved ones because of the conflict. He explained how in the Circle it was the first time he was able to see the Palestinians as people who were hurting just like him and to not view them as his hated enemy.

see Circle, page 11



Sudoku ★★★★★☆ 4puz.com

6				5	1		7	
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		3	8		9		6	
9						5		
7	2			9			8	3
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote

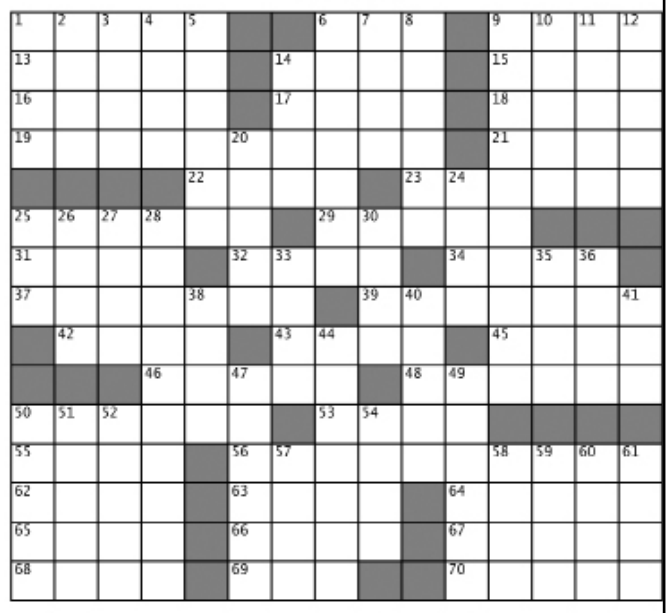
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OJCWFAN LMJUT RJU WDAFWSWEN

WDOWMTXCW XA XT AJ PW OJJF."

— GHSWT H. PHEQUXM

School Daze



ACROSS

1. Bakery fare
6. Capotain
9. Predisposition
13. To pray (Latin)
14. Leslie Caron title role
15. Tropical fruit
16. Commissioner of Major League Baseball
17. Bones
18. Articulate poorly
19. This is all I need to do math. I think my parents used a slide rule.
21. Curved roof
22. Business note
23. "_____ the Universe"
25. Bumper car
29. Bollywood actor Kapoor
31. Game using tiles
32. Well-known infomercial pitchman
34. Part of the eye
37. This is a waist of time. U no whut I mean.
39. I don't get this weird new kind of math.
42. Peruvian province
43. Haliaeetus
45. Stir up
46. Remove writing
48. Town in northern France
50. Pitch tents
53. Mine entrance
55. Layperson
56. I like going here for assemblies. There are never any tests about it afterwards.
62. Celebration
63. Journey
64. Scarlett
65. 2006 John Carney movie
66. Female birds
67. Actors Shelley and Richard
68. Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (abbr.)
69. Type of laser
70. Serpentine letters

DOWN

1. Pear
2. Two dimensional measurement
3. Type of bladder
4. Ariel's love
5. Pea
6. I don't care about this. What fogeys did before I was born is unimportant.
7. Too
8. Crowns
9. They're my chauffeurs. For what I pay in taxes, they should be more respectful.
10. Ice house
11. Grads
12. Fathers
14. Soil
20. Axiom
24. Drink
25. Shar Pei
26. Edible plant
27. University employee
28. This guy reminds me of the drill sergeants I've seen on TV.
30. "No man _____ island."
33. Son of Zeus
35. Black
36. Performance at an opera house
38. Madam (obs.)
40. Authentic, informally
41. Dake _____, in Mali
44. I'd like this subject a lot better if they used good material. Harry Potter, maybe.
47. Disinterest
49. He starred as *Lawrence of Arabia*
50. Synovial joint
51. Loaves of Asian flatbread
52. Tullibee
54. Aioli and marinara
57. Organic chemical
58. Greek letters
59. Actors Holm and McKellen
60. Encourage
61. Momentum divided by velocity

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be posively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of $1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.
- I agree to treat all customers, staff, other vendors respectfully. I will not"hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

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Goth and Punk: the growth of two subcultures

by James Manning
Groundcover Vendor

It was the late '70s and some of the modern day's most popular subcultures were still in their infancy. Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Cure, Sex Pistols, and many other groups were playing venues. I've debated which genres came about first – Goth or punk. I don't think there is a definite answer for this. I always thought they started out as themes in the songs played by previous artists. However, this article is not so much about the origins of these subcultures but rather an overview of their growth and development.

Like the swingers of the '40s and '50s and the peace-promoting flower children of the '60s and '70s, Goth and punk are the most rebellious subcultures today. Goth and punk are very different today than when they were starting out. These subcultures have branched off into so many categories I couldn't possibly cover it all in this article, perhaps even a book. So to keep things simple, let's do this in a timeline manner.

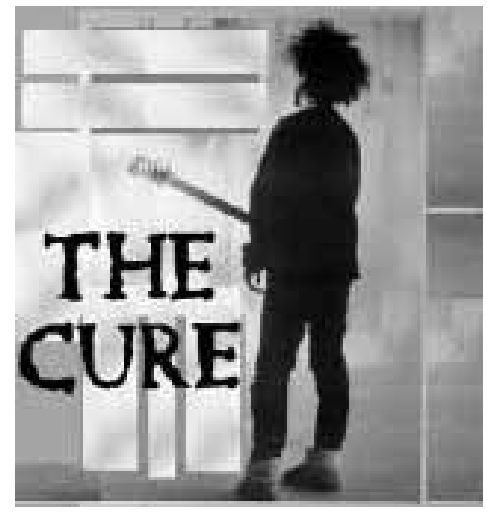
In the late '70s, we started seeing bands like The Cure (a key contributor to the Goth genre) and The Ramones (a key contributor to the punk genre) playing venues here and there with growing popularity. Who started these genres? There are so many opinions on this matter it is pointless to ponder. At first, both scenes were primarily rock-rooted. To this day, punk has remained similar but has been extremely commercialized and is now more of a mainstream genre. Those who hold to its origins and anti-government stands, however, find this new wave pop-punk to be an abomination of what it originally stood for. I have the same feeling about most MTV venue bands.

The Gothic genre, however, has had many transformations, heading in all directions including mainstream and underground. Gothic music got heavily experimental by the mid-eighties with popular Goth rock artists like David Bowie and the underground Goth industrial group Skinny Puppy which has a pretty large fan base. (The origins of Gothic industrial are controversial as well; however, many would agree that early eighties synth-pop had a hand in it.)

Today both subcultures have exploded into every possible facet of entertainment in every country, airwave and satellite signal. Trading cards, books, video games, toys, Hollywood films, plays and even modern opera all have taken on the themes of these subcultures. Our city, Ann Arbor, is the site of a yearly event during mid-August called Punk Week. During this time a large number of travelers of all ages and backgrounds and from all over the country come to this city. There are a number of activities each year that give the event a more solid purpose, like shows, shopping cart races, and even scavenger hunts. Unfortunately, punk week this year was moved to Detroit. However, an event called Seize the Week took place here instead and had similar activities.

With unrest growing in society, the lure of charity, which characterized this city only a year ago, is largely gone. Since these travelers survive off such kindness this may explain why the event was canceled. Technology is available to everybody who knows how to use it. Even the poorest of people can use a library computer. So even among travelers, word can spread quickly. These days there is an air of hostility among people which may cause any rebellion-based subculture to adopt an even more extremist view. These subcultures are not going to vanish. They may be transformed, divided, and even merged with other subcultures, but they are here for good. Evolution is not applied only to living, organic things anymore.







Clockwise, from top left: Skinny Puppy; The Cure; Siouxsie

I'm thrilled to see just how far our world will evolve with technology in my lifetime alone. However, everything will be in vain if we destroy each other. Therefore, if we want jobs, if we want decent benefits and acceptable costs of living, I believe that some degree of salvation lies in rebellion... We are not going to get these things handed to us, because they were taken in the first place. We have to fight. We have to rebel – against our common enemy and not ourselves. Subcultures like Goth and punk are vehicles for such rebellion.

Shutting down prevents life's nourishment from entering our hearts

continued from page 3

uncover, something that never was truly lost. Kindness, generosity, empathy, forgiveness, self-acceptance, open-mindedness, wonder, curiosity, exuberance – these traits are essential to our very nature; they cannot be tainted, diluted, or erased. In contrast, the hard-heartedness keeping us from engaging life fully is like the white noise on a poorly-tuned radio, obscuring the clear signal. The radio signal itself remains unaffected by our inexpert tuning – it's just "waiting" to be plucked out of the air by a properly-adjusted receiver.

So how do we learn, or relearn, to "tune in" to the wonder, the beauty, the teachings of each fresh moment? I recommend baby steps, beginning with opening up to yourself: gently observe your reactions, your prejudices and predispositions. Let go of any judgments you may have about them – often it is these self-judgments alone that keep our hearts and minds from naturally expanding to embrace a fuller reality. Recognize that you are not alone in this – we all have wounds and are on the same basic journey toward wholeness. Learn to take deep breaths during difficult moments, forgiving yourself for your limitations, and allowing yourself to enjoy fully the pleasure of simply being alive. And make a choice, renewing it whenever you catch yourself, to open your heart a little wider every day.

Life-long learners are the true pioneers

by La Shawn Courtwright
Groundcover Vendor

People who set upon new educational horizons and display a willingness to step out and go beyond the average expectation, to me are our true educational pioneers! I know that our lives are impacted in some ways by the way we view things or process ideas based on our knowledge and how we have been taught or have learned to think or conceive of things.

In my opinion, education is also available to us in and through our interactions. The choice I had made concerning always putting my education first was interrupted for a bit of time. However, I'm grateful to be in a position to pursue a certain area of erudition. I enjoy sharing a portion of my learning in the hope that I may encourage others to do well. It is the brave and compassionate kindred that allow for discovery in this aspect of learning. When we hope for others, we hope for ourselves. There are those who provoke and those who invoke things in order to embark upon knowledge's pathways. Hopefully you will get your monthly issue of "Groundcover News" when you see our vendors and learn something new, perhaps.

I, for one, would not pass up a growth opportunity. And I do believe continuing my education will enable me personally to begin to change some of the unjust practices I've been subject to. This is surely a goal for my educational purposes.

Domino Farms has a rich history



by Martin Stolzenberg
Groundcover Contributor

A building in Ann Arbor bigger than the Empire State Building? No kidding.

Not only that, it is over twice as big as that New York City icon. It is the Prairie House Office Park at Domino's Farms. If you took this four-story building, and stood it upright, it would be over twice as tall as the Empire State Building. (To those of you interested, the Empire State Building is listed at 1,453 feet tall. Prairie House is six-tenths of a mile or 3,168 feet long).

You have probably driven past this giant hundreds or even thousands of times and barely noticed it. Located at the junction of highways US 23 and M-14, it is smack in the middle of what seems to be a rural area, although it is actually in the Ann Arbor city proper. This building is in a bucolic setting surrounded by a 271-acre field complete with a menagerie. Even a herd of bison roam on their own pasture here. That is one unusual combination of city and country.

So we have the equivalent of a sky scraper lying flat on its side clad in a distinctive blue-green copper roof, the largest copper roof in the world. Viewed from the ground as you drive by it on Route 23 it just seems long. At times it seems to melt into the landscape. From a helicopter view, Prairie House seems to stretch on almost endlessly.

Where did this giant, but graceful, entity come from? It was the vision of Tom Managhan, founder and CEO of Domino's Pizza. He admired the work of the world famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the way his buildings fit into the surrounding landscape. This was Mr. Monaghan's charge to the architect Cumar Birkets, to create a Wright-style structure in a farmland setting. Birkets did it, but on his own terms.

Visitors enter from going east on Plymouth Road and turning north onto Earhart Road. Interestingly, there is no signage directing one to Prairie House until you are into the property. In summer, sunflowers that line several hundred yards of the two-lane road are the unofficial welcome.

A forty-foot leaning structure, which was intended to become a vertical office tower to complement the horizontal motif of Prairie House, was never completed. It is referred to as the Leaning Tower of Pizza.

Meanwhile, Prairie House is nowhere in sight as the visitor drives down a rural scene with a white fence on the left surrounding a meadow for the bison and croplands on the right. Bison have come to symbolize Domino's Farm, and are now incorporated into the Farm's logo. John Petz, Director of Real Estate and Public Affairs, says, "The first thing people ask who come here is, 'Where are the buffalo?'" The herd numbers forty to sixty depending on the season. In recent years, representatives from the Farm have been award winners at the Eastern Bison Association Annual Show and Sale.

Each entrance has a unique design framed by a large pergola, an open overhanging structure that casts shadows onto the walkway. The walls at the entrances are vertical sheets of green copper, and the windows on either side of the doors have copper trim. The brick walls surrounding the lobbies have ivy covering extended over the pergolas.

Near Lobby D is a two-and-a-half-ton timepiece called the Sunsculpture. It is a giant sundial commissioned by Domino's Pizza franchisees, and presented to Tom Monaghan on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the company. The bronze sundial tells time on a thirty-foot circular brick base.

There is also a curious piece of architecture. When Prairie House was being constructed, a huge oak tree on the west side of the building was damaged. Rather than cut it down, a chainsaw sculptor, Barre Pinsk, carved the trunk into the form of an upright bear, which stands outside the entrance to Lobby B. There is even an eagle sculpture outside Lobby K, and several other identifying pieces near other entrances. Employees in the building often identify their location by the name of the sculpture near the lobby entrance, rather than the letter identification.

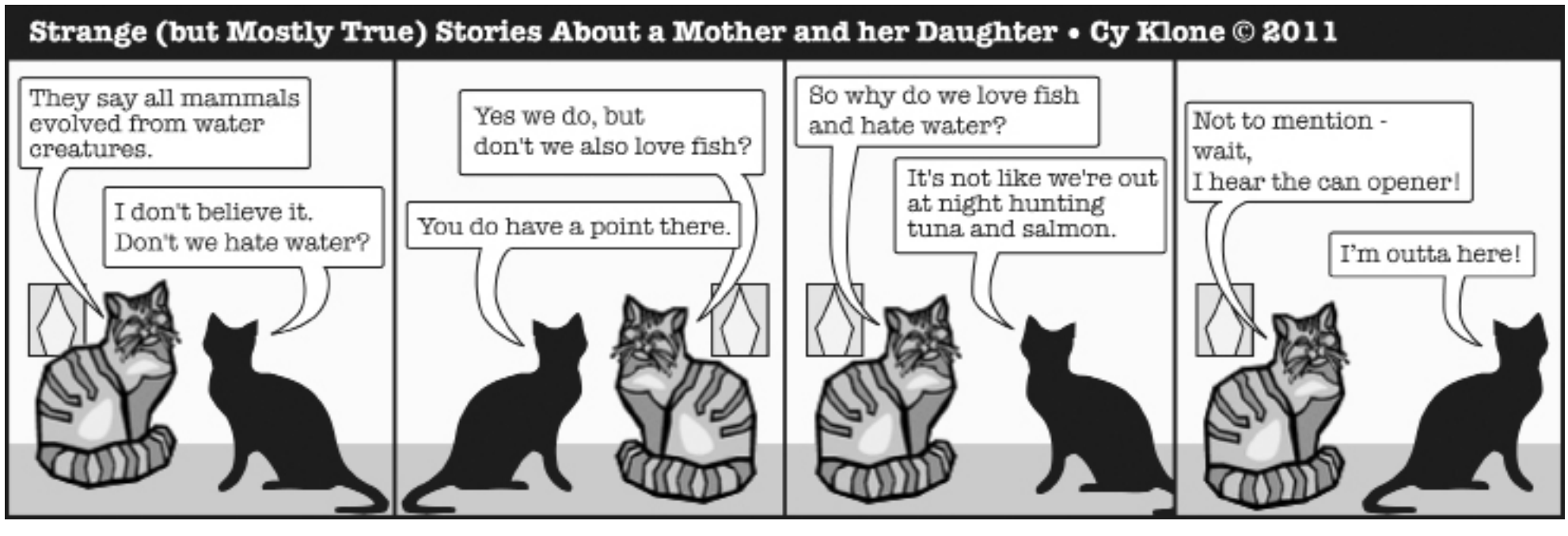
Today, viewing the building, one long sweeping structure is seen. Actually, Prairie House was built in six sections over a 20-year period. The last section was completed and connected to the others in 2005, creating the giant we see today.

Reflecting the Frank Lloyd Wright philosophy, the landscaping unites the building with its surroundings. Apple and cherry trees are planted near the lobbies and around the building. There is virtually every variety of agricultural tree that grows in Michigan on the land. Besides the apple and cherry trees, there are pear, plum and peach trees. In season, their fruits can be picked by the people who work here. In spring, the trees are blossoming and the walkways are edged with flowerbeds for the warm weather months. Even the parking lots have flowers right in the medians.

It is natural to think that Prairie House is the home of Domino's Pizza, and it is. Domino's Pizza is the largest tenant. But that is only a piece of it – after all, there are almost one million square feet here. Another large tenant is the University of Michigan Medical Center. If you work here you can dine, get your laundry cleaned or your teeth examined, buy insurance, work out in a state-of-the-art gymnasium, get investment advice, meet with an attorney, go to the post office and so on without ever leaving the premises! There are approximately fifty different companies in the building with over 1,200 employees on site. Not surprisingly, the employees love working here.

Support services for the building are located on the first floor, sometimes referred to as Main Street. Along the walls of the long corridor that runs

see Domino's page 11



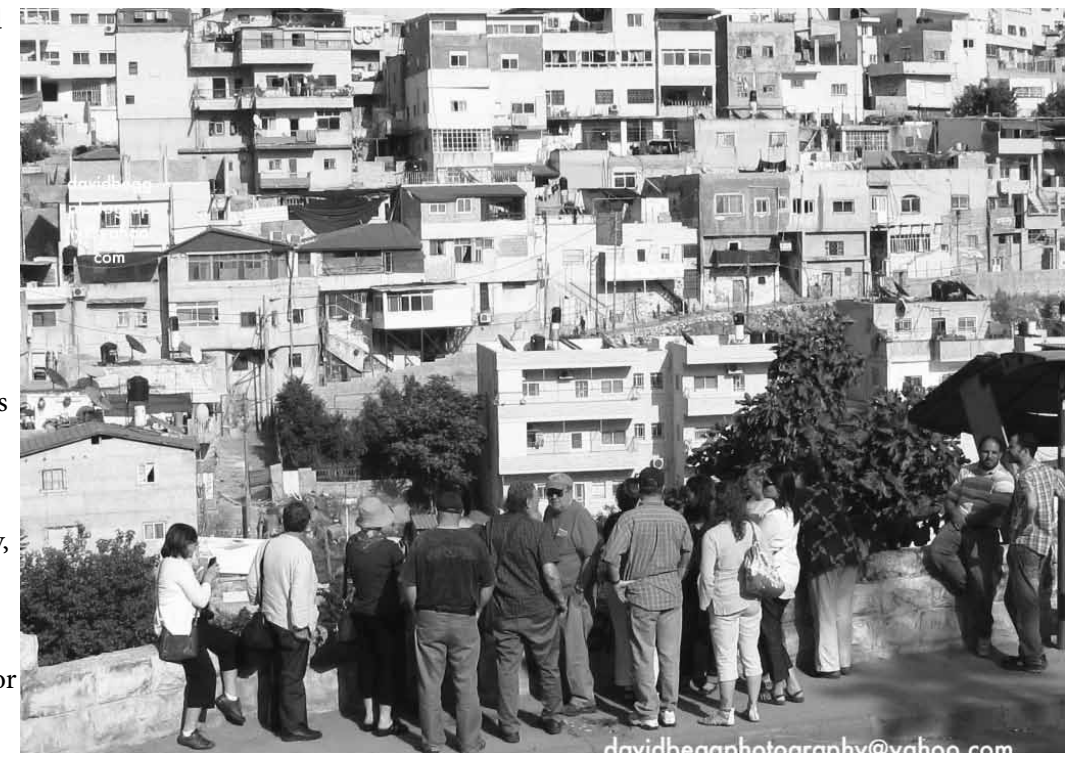
Israeli and Palestinian men share grief, recovery and hope with others

continued from page 7

Aziz told us that when he was 10, his older brother was arrested for suspicion of throwing stones at Israeli property, and was interrogated and tortured until he confessed and was sentenced to a year in jail. While he was in jail his health became very bad, and he was released early and went immediately to a hospital where he died of kidney failure. Aziz told us about how hard it was to lose his elder brother and how he hated the Israelis. However, Aziz had to learn Hebrew to gain employment and met Jewish Israelis while attending class. He began to see them as people like himself. He still says it is a continuing struggle to not turn to thoughts of revenge and violence, but instead to choose to respond in a different way.

Rami and Aziz met in the Family Circle and now together give talks to schools across the land, where the students have a hard time believing that this Israeli and this Palestinian can be friends because they are supposed to hate each other. The men explained that by building connections and relationships with each other, they have been able to put aside the hatred, and see one another as just human beings trying to live out their lives.

We visited with Israelis in Sderot, a town near the Gaza border that has been bombarded by missiles over the years, who are nevertheless communicating with Gazans by cell phones and internet to work together for peace. And we visited with Palestinian women in Bethany, subjects of occupation for their whole lives, who are working with Israeli women to create economic opportunities and empowerment for women of both ethnicities.



Looking at Palestinian homes from Israel.

We had lunch with a man who has led a Palestinian non-violent protest against the placement of the separation barrier near his village that cut the residents off from their fields. The protest was successful in the barrier's relocation.

Openness, reconciliation, non-violent response: these are the themes we experienced that held out some hope for the future.
As one person we talked to said, "The sides are not between Palestinians and Israelis, but between those who are for humanity and those who are opposed."

Domino Farms features a Frank Lloyd Wright feel and a wildlife conservatory

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the length of the building are well over a hundred paintings acquired by Mr. Monaghan. They have even included Masters like Renoir. These are rotated and sometimes sold.

This place has been described as "the workplace where people look forward to Monday morning." The natural setting is a wondrous place to see the changing seasons and nature through the large windows in the offices.
And there are so many convenient services, all in a five-minute walk from someone's desk.

There is so much more. After all, as the name says, this is a farm. There is the Petting Farm, a delight for kids. Besides the bison herd, there are draft horses, cattle, chickens, rabbits, sheep and goats – 150 animals in all. In the winter, the animals are mostly in the red barn. Also, this is a working farm. One hundred acres of hay are grown for the bison and farm animals right here. Farm workers plant and harvest alfalfa, timothy-grass, and clover for the animals in addition to filling the water troughs. Special events such as picnics and an Easter Egg Hunt are regular occurrences.

Domino's Farms can also be considered a wildlife conservatory with its six inviting ponds, wetlands and meadows. The ponds are actually man-made catch basins for the water runoff from Prairie House. Deer, foxes, skunks, coyotes, reptiles, insects, and varieties of birds and fish share space with the Prairie House. All are welcomed and treated respectfully by the farmers, employees and visitors.

Viewed at night from the highway, continuous lines of LED lights outline each floor of the building. It provides a dramatic and visionary view, a terrific way to comprehend the enormity and simplicity of the building. It is timeless: a landmark that Tom Monaghan and all Ann Arbor can be proud of. Mr. Petz describes it as a building "where the structure seamlessly complements the landscape." Instead of just riding by, one day take the time to tour and appreciate this wonderful place.

Puzzle Solutions from page 8

CRYPTOQUOTE

"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor."

— James A. Baldwin

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It's a ball and you bounce it

by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

At this time of year there are quite a few parents who are counting the minutes until their kids are back in school. It's not because they don't love their kids or don't adore having them around – these parents desperately need an afternoon nap.

My mother was one of those parents who couldn't wait to get me in school. She gave birth to me when she was 42, and her hot flashes started about the same time I started bringing pet worms into the house.

I was three years old when I was enrolled in kindergarten, technically too young to be admitted, but my mother begged the school to take me anyway. I was ADD – an unknown condition then – and all my mother knew was that I needed to be anywhere but home with her all day long.

"She's so precocious, she should be in school," my mother told Miss Kramer, the formidable kindergarten teacher who, from my three-year-old perspective, looked like she was the size of a Kelvinator refrigerator.

"She's very clever, I think she needs the mental stimulation of school," my mother went on. That was parent code for, "She's driving me crazy and seriously impacting my headaches and mood swings. Speaking of, got any Percoset on you?"

Miss Kramer decided to give me a little aptitude test before admitting me. I wasn't particularly shy, but I found no reason to speak to someone with whom I had nothing in common, so I wasn't about to chat up old lady. I just stood silently in front of her while my mother extolled my virtues.

"She can write little poems, and she plays very well by herself," my mother blathered on, nervous beads of perspiration breaking out along her hairline.

Miss Kramer was holding an orange. She had strong, gnarled hands, probably the result of grabbing many, many kindergartners by the scruff of their necks and hauling them to the time-out chair.

"Do you know what this is, Laurie?" Miss Kramer asked me.

Was she for real? What did I look like, an idiot? I didn't dignify the question with a response. My mother gave me a firm nudge and said, "Answer the teacher, Laurie." I gave my mother a gimlet-eyed stare and continued to stand silently. If this adult didn't know what she was holding in her hand, I didn't see why it was my responsibility to educate her. She was the teacher, for God's sake! My first impression of public schooling was already taking a turn for the worse.

"Laurie, can't you tell me what this is?" she asked again.

"It's a ball and you bounce it," I said with disgust, then snatched it from her and tosssed it on the floor. To my satisfaction, it actually bounced once before it rolled away under a little desk.

"See how precocious she is?" My mother said, trying to make the best of a bad situation. She had a look of abject fear in her eyes – fear that I would not be accepted and she'd have to put up with me at home, day in and day out, for another year.

"She'll be a challenge, but she seems smart enough, so I'll take her," Miss Kramer said. Then she laid one of those wide-receiver hands on my shoulder and, with an iron grip, pointed me in the direction of the wayward orange and told me to go fetch it.

I felt my universe shifting at that moment. I took orders from my parents, but not my bossy older sister or big brother. Where did this person fall in the pecking order? Did I have to obey her?

As I contemplated my hierarchal dilemma, Miss Kramer's sausage fingers went from my shoulder to the pressure point on my upper arm, which she squeezed. And then squeezed again, harder. I got it. Telling this woman "You're not the boss of me" was not going to work. I think it's a darn shame that teachers today aren't allowed to use the old, 'Grab the pressure point' teaching technique on some students who could particularly benefit from that highly effective motivational tool.

While my mother spent the first week of kindergarten taking blissful, Percocet-laced naps, I was in school, trying to establish myself.

"I'm bigger than you," one of the boys told me while poking me in the shoulder. "I'm four, and you're only three." I wanted to tell him, "Your nose is running and mine isn't," but he had a point. To this day, I can't stand it when someone pokes me in the shoulder to make a point.

When my turn came for Show and Tell, I realized I'd forgotten to bring in something to show. Given my ADD nature, this was not unusual. So I decided to wing it. "For Show and Tell today I brought… MYSELF! I was born a boneless baby. I have bones now, but I was born completely without them."

Top that, I thought to myself as I stood preening in front of the rest of the class.

"Now Laurie, using your imagination is a good thing, but not if you're telling fibs," Miss Kramer said.

"I am NOT lying! I was a boneless baby! Just ask my mom! She said I was a boneless baby and it came as a big surprise to her."

At the parent teacher conference, Miss Kramer did ask my mom.

"Laurie has a vivid imagination, but we shouldn't let her get away with making up fibs to get attention," Miss Kramer said. "She told the class she was a boneless baby. Now, why would she make up a story like that?"

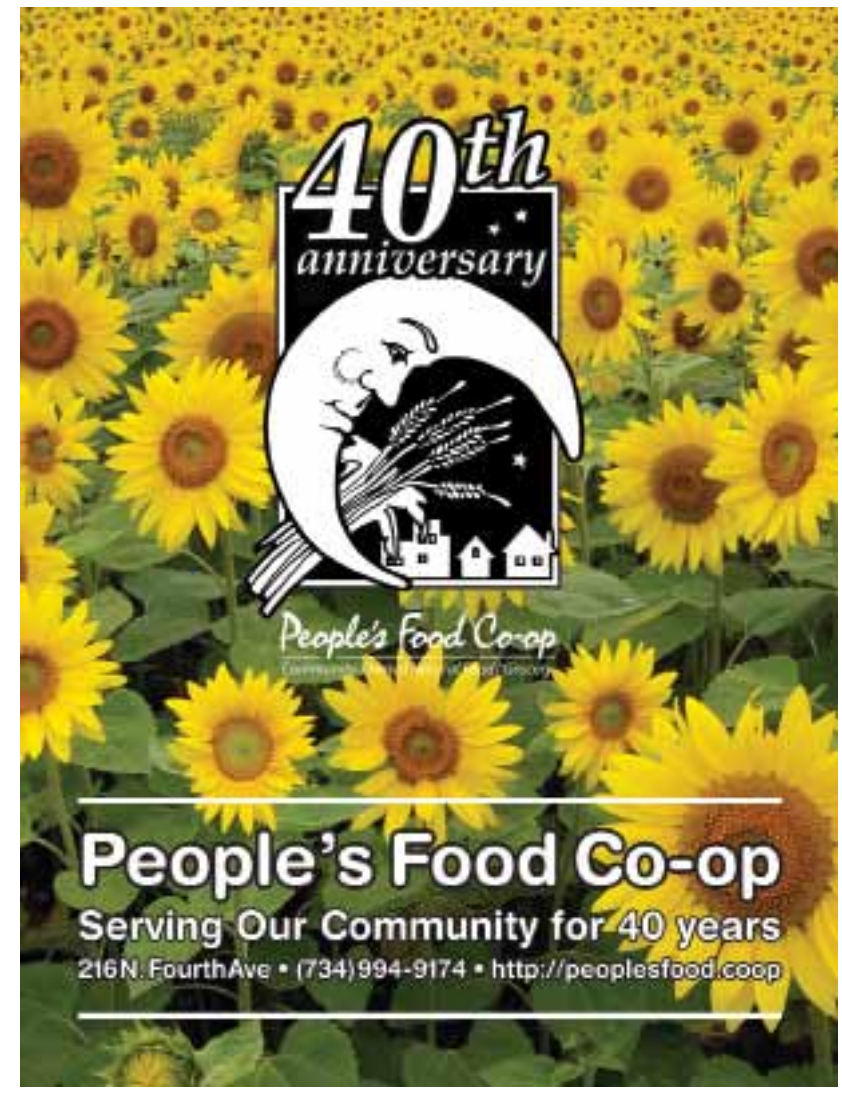
My mom cringed in front of the old spinster teacher.

"Well, ah, what I actually told her was that she was a BONUS baby… she came as a surprise. You see, her father and I had some Jack Rose cocktails one night –"

"Ah, I get it," Miss Kramer murmered. "Say no more."

So if you're one of those parents who has a uniquely challenging child and you can't wait for him or her to get back in school, ah, I get it too, say no more.

And when your child is back in school, I hope you can squeeze in a nice nap.



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